

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Michael P. Ronan, et al.  
For : EASY-OPEN FOLDING CARTON AND METHOD FOR  
MANUFACTURING SAME

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

3-11-02  
JC997 U.S. PTO  
10/058594  
01/28/02

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant wishes to advise the Patent and Trademark Office of the information listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 considered during the preparation of the above identified application.

Reference AR includes a series of photographs of paperboard packaging used to package Vise-Grips (a hand tool) sold at a variety of hardware stores. The packaging includes three panels that are folded flat onto one another to form a multi-layered backing to support the tool. The tool is attached to the backing with one or more plastic attachment devices. The panels are secured in the folded position by a line of adhesive disposed between the adjacent surfaces of two folded panels. It appears from the glossy appearance that at least one of the two adjacent surfaces is coated with a paperboard coating. As can be seen from the referenced photographs, there are circular punctures within the apparently coated panel. The photographs show the package after it has been opened. As shown, the panels suffered severe delamination when opened.

Although the precise publication date of Reference AR is not known with certainty, Applicant acknowledges that this reference is prior art to the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL P. RONAN ET AL

By: Warner Norcross & Judd LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Dani', is written over a horizontal line.

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